

Overview of AB 383 (Montanez)

Starting January 1, 2006, more consumers will qualify for financial assistance with their emission-related repairs of their vehicles.

1. Recent legislation, AB 383 (Chapter 565, Statutes of 2005) increased the federal poverty eligibility guidelines from 185% to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for consumers applying to the Income Eligible Repair Assistance Program. The provision of this law will be repealed January 1, 2009, if not extended by the Legislature.
2. The new law allows the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) to increase the federal poverty guidelines to 225% FPL, if there are sufficient funds available. BAR anticipates the qualification limit to increase to 225% FPL by late summer of 2006, with the approval of a pending regulatory package.
3. The Federal poverty guidelines for a family of four are displayed here based on the incremental increases enacted by AB 383:
 - 185% - \$3,084 monthly or \$37,000 annually
 - 200% - \$3,333 monthly or \$40,000 annually
 - 225% - \$3,750 monthly or \$45,000 annually
4. Repair Assistance and Vehicle Retirement programs have not changed their financial assistance:
 - Up to \$500 in emission-related repairs for Repair Assistance
 - \$1000 to retire a high polluting vehicle to the state for Vehicle Retirement